

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 2, 2003 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 were rejected as being anticipated by or obvious in view of Wood. These rejections are traversed.

The present invention relates to a technique for establishing a telephone call in which a prefatory network connection (such as an email or internet connection) uses a network identifier (such as an email or webpage address) to retrieve a telephone number. Following the prefatory connection, the telephone number may be automatically dialed. Various aspects of the invention are set forth in respective independent claims 1, 6, 9, 13 and 14. In accordance with claim 1, a user enters into the electronic device a network address of a party whose phone number information is to be retrieved; the electronic device sends a request to a server in accordance with the network protocol, the request containing a predictable variant of said address; and the server sends the desired phone number to the electronic device. In accordance with claim 6, a character string entered by a user is input and a determination is made whether or not it is a telephone number. If not, a preliminary telecommunications connection is established using the character string, in the course of which a telephone number is received, which telephone number is then used to establish a desired telecommunications connection. Claim 9 and 13 claim devices for performing methods similar to those of claim 6 and claim 1, respectively. In accordance with claim 14, a communication is transparently prefaced with a network communications exchange, established based on an electronic address of the party

with which communication is to be established, to obtain information for communicating with that party; and the electronic device is connected to communicate with said party using the information obtained.

An important feature of the claims is therefore how a telephone number is discovered and how that telephone number is then used. The invention in effect provides for an email address or the like to be used instead of a telephone number. That is, the telephone number is discovered using an email or similar address and is used to automatically establish the desired connection. This manner of operation is quite different than establishing a call in conventional fashion using a standard telephone number discovered using any of various conventional directories.

Woods describes a system in which a web facility and a telephone switch inter-communicate, allowing for control of a deskset telephone through a web browser. As described in connection with Figure 3 of Wood, beginning at column 6, line 42:

The above functions of the buttons 71 to 74 do not involve communications via the call control interface 46. In contrast, the buttons 75 to 77 invoke communications functions which typically involve communications with the telephone switch 16 via the call control interface 46.

As further described these functions include a DIAL function in which the telephone switch 16 is triggered to "set up a connection between the subscriber's telephone 10 and a *telephone directory number* in the window 68. [I]t can be appreciated that, in the manner described above, the subscriber is able to instigate a telephone call to a desired number through his access to the web page, and not by dialing at the telephone 10." (Col. 6, line 47 to col. 7, line 13.)

Other functions, including call transfer (TRANS), conferencing (CONF), redial

(REDIAL) and email messaging (E-MAIL) are described, as well as various call log functions and directory.

However, nowhere does Wood teach or suggest using discovering a telephone number using an email address or the like, nor does Wood teach automatically using the telephone number so discovered to establish a desired connection. Wood simply teaches that if a telephone number is known and stored on the user's computer, or if a telephone number can be obtained using any of various conventional directories, a call can be placed from the computer and established between the user's telephone deskset and the desired party. Among the features of each independent claim not taught or suggested by Wood are the following:

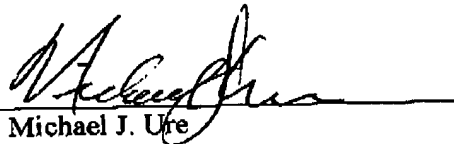
Claim	Feature(s) not taught
1	retrieving desired phone number information using network address of party whose phone number information is to be retrieved
6	establishing a preliminary telecommunications connection using a user-entered character string that is not a telephone number to thereby receive a telephone number
9	establishing a preliminary telecommunications connection using a user-entered character string that is not a telephone number to thereby receive a telephone number
13	retrieving desired phone number information using network address of party whose phone number information is to be retrieved
14	transparently prefacing a communication with a network communications exchange, established based on an electronic address of a desired party, to obtain information for communicating with that party

Note in particular that in claim 14, the transparent, prefactory network communications exchange is *established based on* an electronic address of the party with which communication is to be established. This is different than Woods, in which network communications are

*based on a fixed web address but may include a known or previously discovered telephone number of a desired party.*

Allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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